

Quetta
Karachi

DAILY MIRROR

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SC dismisses govt plea seeking permission for military courts to announce verdicts

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the government's petition seeking to allow military courts to announce case verdicts.

"Giving permission would mean recognising the authority of military courts," remarked Justice Musarrat Hilali who was part of the apex court's seven-member constitutional bench.

Headed by Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan, the bench also includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

Furthermore, the court today also threw out former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja's petition seeking the postponement of the hearings of cases relating to the trial of civilians in military courts till the 26th Constitutional Amendment issue was decided.

The court also slapped a fine of Rs20,000 on the former chief justice.

Justice Ayesha A Malik was not part of the bench as the Constitutional Committee observed that since the judge was a member of the earlier bench whose judgment was under challenge, therefore, she could not sit on the constitutional bench for those appeals.

The hearing

During the hearing today, the court questioned Khawaja's counsel, asking: "Do you recognise the constitutional bench?"

In response, the counsel said: "I do not accept the jurisdiction of the constitutional bench."

Justice Mandokhail, addressing this remark, said: "Then you may leave the courtroom."

The counsel further asserted that the current constitutional bench was nominated by the Judicial Commission.

At this, Justice Mandokhail inquired whether the 26th Constitutional Amendment had been invalidated? He was joined by Justice Mazhar, who observed: "You are employing delaying tactics. At every hearing, some new request emerges."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on law and order situation.

PM orders action plan for safe evacuation of Pakistanis from Syria

"Safety of Pakistanis' lives and property in Syria is our top priority": Shehbaz

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Citing tense security situation in Syria after the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's regime, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the authorities concerned to form an action plan for the safe evacuation of Pakistanis wishing to return from Syria, via neighbouring countries as soon as possible.

Syria rebel fighters had raced into Damascus unopposed on Sunday, overthrowing President Assad and ending nearly six decades of his family's iron-fisted rule after a lightning advance that reversed the course of a 13-year civil war.

The prime minister was chairing a meeting held to review the current situation in Syria and the safe evacuation of Pakistanis present in the country. "All possible steps should be taken to ensure the safe evacuation of Pakistanis from

Syria," the prime minister stressed.

The safety of Pakistanis' lives and property in Syria is our top priority, the prime minister said, instructing authorities to utilise all available resources for this purpose.

He also directed the Pakistan Embassy in Damascus to establish an information desk and a helpline to facilitate the Pakistanis. Until the security situation improves, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Crisis Management Unit and information desks at Pakistani embassies in Syria and its neighbouring countries should remain operational round the clock, the prime minister directed. The meeting was attended by Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, and senior officials from relevant departments.

Governor directs to fill vacancies of 18 magistrates in Quetta

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Monday directed the government to take immediate steps to fill the vacancies of 18 magistrates in the provincial capital Quetta.

He said that there is a severe lack of interaction and cooperation between all the relevant institutions like Metropolitan Corporation Quetta (MCQ), Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Quetta Development Authority (QDA) and Quetta Development Package (QDP) etc, for the cleanliness campaign of the city of Quetta and the restoration of its former glory.

He expressed these views while talking during a briefing on the cleanliness campaign of Quetta and the restoration of its reputation.

Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiq and Principal Secretary to Governor

Balochistan Hashim Khan Ghilzai were also present on the occasion.

The Governor said that the time has come for everyone to come together and play their respective roles to restore the former glory of Quetta and fully cooperate with each other. Appreciating the performance of Commissioner Quetta Division and his entire team, he said that the fruits of cleaning and rehabilitation measures should be conveyed to the people of the suburban areas of Quetta city and transparency and strict monitoring should be given priority in all activities.

The Governor said that we have to recognize that cleaning and rehabilitation of our city is not the responsibility of the concerned government authorities only but it is a collective responsibility of every citizen in which the active participation of the government and the people is urgently needed to achieve this goal.

Omar Ayub says PTI ready for talks, threatens civil disobedience if demands not met

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub, stated that the party is ready to engage in negotiations with anyone, whether human or angel, to resolve ongoing political issues.

Speaking to the media after his appearance in the Peshawar High Court on Monday, he stated that if the demands are not met, the party will resort to launching a civil disobedience movement.

He revealed that a negotiating committee was formed following a meeting with PTI's founder on December 5. The committee comprises Ayub himself, Hamid Raza, and Salman Akram Raja. This committee will push for the

dismissal of cases filed against PTI leaders and workers.

Ayub also commented on the broader political situation in Pakistan, claiming that the country is under a form of martial law, where state-sponsored terrorism has made ordinary citizens unsafe.

He accused the government of using modern weapons against peaceful protesters and noted a sharp increase in the number of first information reports (FIR) filed against PTI members. Addressing personal grievances, Ayub said that his car and the cash inside it had gone missing. He also revealed that he was attacked with a shell on the Hazara Motorway, and when he questioned the Chief Secretary and Inspector General (IG) of Police, they were unable to provide answers.

Two terrorists killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's DI Khan district: ISPR

APP

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed and one was arrested in an operation carried out by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan area on Sunday, the military's media wing said in a statement.

"On 09 December 2024, Security Forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in general area Kulachi, Dera Ismail Khan District on [the] reported presence of khwarji," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

During the operation, security personnel engaged the terrorists, two of whom were "sent to hell", while one terrorist was "apprehended in injured condition".

According to the ISPR, weapons and ammunition were seized from the terrorists, who were "actively involved in terrorist activities against the security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians".

"[A] sanitisation operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Khawji found in the area,

as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR statement read.

Bugti for enhancing local body depts' funds to be active them

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday said that we have decided to increase the funds of local government institutions in order to make them functional for facilitating people in the respective areas of the province. He expressed these views while inaugurating the new office of the Sui Municipal Committee during one-day visit of Sui area.

Chairman Municipal Committee Sui Izzatullah Bugti and regional elders welcomed the Chief Minister on his arrival at the MC office.

Addressing at the ceremony of inaugural, the Chief Minister said that we wanted the local government institutions to be active saying that in this regard, we have

made decision to enhance the funds of local government institutions

subject to performance. He said that if public problems are solved at the local level, the people would not have to face the difficulties of coming to the provincial capital, most of the problems of the public are of the local level.

He said that if local government institutions play an active role, unnecessary pressure on the provincial machinery would be reduced.

Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gelu, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan were also present on the occasion.

Chairman Municipal Committee Sui Izzatullah Bugti also presented a souvenir to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti.



Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurating the new office of the Sui Municipal Committee during one-day visit of Sui area.



Manchester : Supporters of Palestine took part in a demonstration to express solidarity with Palestine.

Fazl blasts 'attempt to divide ulema' as tensions escalate with govt over madressah bill

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Tahir Ashrafi says no one allowed to gamble with future of madressahs, students, teachers

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday criticised the government for its "conspiracy to divide the ulema" while speaking about the madressah reforms bill issue.

The statement came in light of the ongoing controversy related to the Societies Registration (Amendment) Act, 2024 — a new law passed by parliament which relates to the regulatory affairs of madressahs. President Asif Ali Zardari has yet to grant it presidential assent, prompting the JUI-F to criticise ruling coalition parties for using 'delaying tactics' regarding the bill.

The government met with scholars in Islamabad today to discuss religious seminary registration and reforms. Attendees included federal ministers Attaullah Tarar, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Chaudhary Salik Hussain, and Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi.

Fazl, however, took exception to the government's meeting. Speaking at a press conference in Charsadda today shortly after a media talk of the government officials, he said that "the meeting called by the government today in Islamabad

with the ulema was, in reality, a conspiracy to divide the ulema."

On Sunday, while addressing a public meeting in Peshawar, he had said his party was not ready to accept any interference from the government in the affairs of religious seminaries amidst the issue of the madressah registration bill.

The JUI-F chief had set December 8 as the deadline for completing the legislation process on seminaries' registration with the demand that the earlier procedure adopted in 2019 — when the PTI was in power — for registration of religious schools with the education ministry should be amended and that these institutions should now be affiliated with the industries ministry.

Addressing the government's allegations today that he demanded affiliation of madressahs with the Ministry of Industries instead of the Ministry of Education, he said, "I want to explain that in this draft we have given madressahs complete freedom to associate with any federal [act] where the 1860 Society Registrations Act or with the federal education ministry they are free to choose."

He stated that his party was close to making a definitive announcement yesterday but postponed it after receiving a

message from Mufti Taqi Usmani about a meeting on the 17th with allied organisations, aiming to achieve a joint stance.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference after a meeting of the government ministers and religious scholars, Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi said that it was a long-standing demand by the ulema that madressah education was also accepted as education on a government level and it was the culmination of this demand that resulted in the 2019 agreement with the government.

"It's very strange that you demand affiliation of madressahs with the Ministry of Industries, instead of the Ministry of Education,

while 18,000 out of 25,000 madressahs of 10 boards have already been registered under the prevailing mechanism," he added while commenting on Fazl's demands.

Ashrafi said the government and ulema would not allow anyone to gamble with the future of madressahs, their students, and teachers.

He called for all seminary board leaders to be consulted before any laws were made on the matter. He concluded with an appeal to the government to strengthen the existing system, ensuring the welfare of millions of seminary students.

CM announces Rs 10 mln grant for cleanliness drive in Sui Town

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti issued orders to provide Rs 10 million grant to Municipal Committee Sui for comprehensive cleanliness drive in Sui Town. He also announced provision of one fire brigade, two dumping trucks and three loaders for solid waste management.

The Chief Minister gave directive to the provision of laptops for students of Sui Cadet College.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan issued these orders while addressing the Cadet College ceremony and visiting the Town Committee Sui during a one-day visit to Sui.

Town Committee Sui Chairman Izzatullah Bugti and the people of the area thanked the Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti for the steps taken to resolve the problems.

Pakistani nationals safe in Syria; advised to exercise caution: FO

INP

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office has stated that all Pakistani nationals in Syria are safe, and have been advised to exercise caution under the evolving situation.

In a statement issued in Islamabad, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said we are closely monitoring the evolving situation in Syria.

She said Pakistan has always supported unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, and there is no change in its principled position.

The Spokesperson said, as of now Damascus Airport is closed, and our embassy remains in contact with stranded Pakistani nationals including Zaireen. She said Embassy of Pakistan in Syria is open for necessary support and advice.

The Spokesperson said the Embassy will facilitate their safe return once the airport opens.

PM directs swift actions against agitators, vows to foil attempts of sabotaging economy

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the relevant authorities to take swift actions against those involved in recent unrest, vandalism and chaos and damaging both public and private properties in Islamabad.

However, he directed to make it sure that no innocent and law-abiding citizen is arrested during the crackdown against those spreading chaos.

Chairing a review meeting on law and order situation, the prime minister stressed that the government will not allow anyone to disrupt the stability of the rapidly improving economy through creating chaos.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also ordered to make the process of identifying those inciting disorder more effective and to gather solid evidence against them.

"Provide all necessary resources to the task force formed to take action against such elements," he said.

The prime minister also instructed to bring the Federal Prosecution Service under the Ministry of Law.

He also asked the relevant authorities to complete the Islamabad Jail construction at the earliest and ensure immediate release of funds for this purpose.

During the meeting, it was informed that the scope of the Islamabad Safe City project was being expanded besides increasing the number of Safe City cameras.

The meeting was also informed that the Islamabad Jail building will be completed by March next year.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaulah, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Coordinator to PM Rana Ihsan Afzal and other relevant high officials.

UoG celebrates conclusion of its Business & Cultural Gala 2024

APP

Quetta: University of Gwadar (UoG) celebrated the successful conclusion of its vibrant Business & Cultural Gala 2024 on Monday marked by enthusiasm, creativity, and the participation of the students and local community. The grand closing ceremony was graced by Brigadier Saeed Ibrar, Brigadier Staff 44 Division, as the chief guest, who lauded the university's efforts in promoting education, cultural exchange, and entrepreneurship in the region.

Esteemed guests, including Brigadier Ehtisham Sattar (Commander, 440 Brigade Gwadar), DIG Police Pervaiz Umrani, Shafaqat Shwani, Director General Gwadar Development Authority Deputy Commissioner Hamood ur Rehman, Registrar Mr. Dolat Khan, Controller of Examinations Dr. Rahim Bakhsh, Dean of Faculties, HoDs, and other officials from various administrative departments and social activists graced the closing ceremony, highlighting its collaborative spirit. The event also welcomed Prof Dr Jan Muhammad, Dean, Faculty of

Social Science University of Gwadar, as a special guest, who emphasized the importance of Gwadar's rich cultural and economic potential in shaping the future of Pakistan. The Business & Cultural Gala showcased an array of activities, including cultural exhibits, business idea competitions, and traditional performances, reflecting the diversity and entrepreneurial spirit of Balochistan.

Students and local entrepreneurs set up innovative stalls highlighting Gwadar's heritage and emerging business opportunities, providing a platform for dialogue and collaboration between academia and industry.

In his address, Commander 440 Brigade commended the University of Gwadar for creating a platform where education meets practical application. "This event symbolizes the aspirations of Gwadar's youth and the immense potential this region holds for Pakistan's progress," he remarked. The event culminated with an award ceremony where outstanding participants and organizers were recognized for their contributions to making the gala a resounding success.



Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Zain-ul-Abideen Khilji along with Qahhar Khan, Provincial President Pashtunkhwa Mili Awami Party (PKMAP) addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club

Corruption consuming progress, hollowing out government system: Sindh CM Murad

INP

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has stated that corruption has 'spread like cancer in our society, not only consuming our progress but also hollowing out the government system.'

In his message on International Anti-Corruption Day, Murad Ali Shah mentioned that this year's theme, "Uniting with Youth against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity," calls for a leadership role for youth in the fight against corruption.

He urged the youth to rise against corruption today to safeguard the nation's "tomorrow," emphasising

the collective effort needed to battle corruption. He called on the public to support the government in this fight.

The Sindh Chief Minister further stated that the Sindh government follows a zero-tolerance policy against corruption and has strengthened the Anti-Corruption Department. The department has uncovered several scandals and ensured that the culprits face justice.

Vowing to eradicate corruption on the International Anti-Corruption Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday that resources intended for public welfare would be used for their rightful purpose and that all cit-

izens benefit from transparent, effective governance.

In separate messages issued on the occasion, both leaders also stressed the importance of accountability and the role of institutions like the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and other law enforcement agencies in combating corruption.

They assured the nation that those exploiting public funds or misusing power would face the consequences of their actions. In his message, PM Shehbaz said that December 9 marks the International Anti-Corruption Day, a reminder to all of us of the global efforts to confront one of the greatest challenges facing our societies — corruption.

Two families eating Pakistan like termites: Barrister Saif

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Monday took aim at Sharif and Zardari families for "eating the country like termites."

In a statement on the International Anti-Corruption Day, Saif said today Pakistanis will have to purge themselves of all the corrupt elements of the society, adding that people will have to pledge to get rid of two families who had been plundering Pakistan for decades.

"These two families make their wealth here and then stash it abroad.

One has purchased properties in London while the other has huge amount deposited in the Swiss Bank. The country is going backwards while their wealth is soaring," he added.



Karachi: Former senator Mola Bakhsh Chandio called on Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Mohsin Naqvi lauds security forces for successful Intelligence-Based Operation in Kulachi

INP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has commended the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operation in Kulachi.

The minister praised the security forces for neutralizing two Khawarij terrorists.

He applauded the security forces, saying, "We pay tribute to the security forces for their successful operation against Khawarij terrorists in Kulachi, foiling their nefarious designs."

Mohsin Naqvi further stated that the nation stands with the security forces in their fight against terrorism.

Baldia factory fire: SHC dissatisfied over efforts to repatriate Hammad Siddiqui

APP

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court's (SHC) constitutional bench on Monday expressed displeasure over the efforts to bring Hammad Siddiqui, a prime accused and proclaimed offender in Baldia factory fire case, back to country.

The constitutional bench headed by Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha was hearing a case pertaining to Baldia factory fire with regard to bringing proclaimed offender Hammad Siddiqui and other accused back to Pakistan to face the trial.

"The court had ordered the extradition of Hammad Siddiqui. Why the accused, involved in the killing of 266 people, had not been brought back to the country," Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha remarked.

The court also asked who was providing shelter to the accused, who faces serious allegations.

The SHC's constitutional bench added that it had also ordered the blocking of Hamad

Siddiqui's CNIC and passport, asking as to what measures were taken to comply with its directives.



Fazal Muhammad Foundation Chief, Fazal Muhammad Noorzai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club



Bangladesh stun India to retain U-19 Asia Cup

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: Bowlers produced a stunning performance to give defending champions Bangladesh a stunning 59-run victory over India in the U-19 Asia Cup final here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Chasing 199, India were shot out for 139 in 35.2 overs as all their players failed to make valuable contribution with the bat. India lost wickets in a flurry on two occasions which broke the back of their chase.



LEICESTER: Leicester City's Bobby De Cordova-Reid (R) celebrates after scoring the equaliser during the Premier League match against Brighton & Hove Albion at the King Power Stadium

Rampant England pummel NZ again to seal series

SPORTS DESK

WELLINGTON: England romped to a second comfortable victory over New Zealand in two weeks to secure a Test series triumph on Sunday with skipper Ben Stokes apparently enjoying a Midas touch with his every decision turning to gold.

Stokes delivered the coup de grace at Wellington's Basin Reserve himself, coming on to take the last three wickets at a cost of five runs to dismiss New Zealand for 259 and wrap up the 323-run victory with more than two days to spare.

Seamers Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse and Gus Atkinson all played crucial roles in the victory, the latter with a rare hat-trick on Saturday to help scuttle New Zealand's first innings for 125.

Shoaib Bashir stepped up to remove Tom Blundell after the New Zealand wicket-keeper had marshalled the home rearguard with a defiant 115 on a surface that rarely offers anything for spinners this early in the season.

With the bat, the controversial selection of Jacob Bethell at number three paid dividends in only his second Test with an innings of 96, while Ollie Pope thrived with a key knock of 66 despite being dropped down the order as stand-in wicket-keeper.

Most of all, it was the brilliant innings of 123 from player-of-the-match Harry Brook on a tricky surface that laid the foundation for England's biggest win by runs over the Black Caps, and a first series triumph in New Zealand since 2008.

"You look down that scorecard, there's one guy that took it away from us," said New Zealand captain Tom Latham. "Harry played a fantastic innings there. Credit where credit is due, I thought that was a fantastic innings."

Stokes agreed the fifth-wicket partnership between Brooks and Pope that took England from 43-4 to 280 in the first innings had been crucial.

"Scoring 280 and having five New Zealand wickets at the end of day one really set this game up for us," the New Zealand-born all-rounder said.

"But a lot of that has got to go down to the way that Harry Brook and Ollie Pope took on the New Zealand bowlers and didn't allow their very skillful bowlers to run up and put the ball where they wanted to." On Sunday, England had resumed on a blustery morning on 378-5 looking to quickly inflate their already imposing lead of 533 before sending the Black Caps in to bat.



New Zealand batter Glenn Phillips is bowled by England spinner Shoaib Bashir during the second Test at the Basin Reserve

Arsenal drop points in title chase, Bournemouth stun Ipswich

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Arsenal lost precious ground on leaders Liverpool in the Premier League title race with a 1-1 draw at Fulham on Sunday as Bournemouth staged a 2-1 comeback win to deny Ipswich Town their first home victory.

Leicester City also came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Brighton & Hove Albion.

Raul Jimenez stunned title-chasing Arsenal when he put Fulham on the scoresheet in the 11th minute on a wet and grey afternoon. William Saliba equalised from point-blank range shortly after the interval.

Arsenal thought they had won it in the 88th minute when Bukayo Saka headed the ball in from close range, but the goal was ruled out VAR.

"We dominated most of the game... It's frustrating not to win," Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard told Sky Sports. "We have to focus on ourselves. We don't care about the other teams (in the title race). It's a very long way to go. We've said hundreds of times we have to keep going game by game."

Fulham, who also thwarted the Gunners both home and away last season, have lost just one of their last seven league games to climb to 10th.

Bournemouth climbed to eighth in the table after goals from substitutes Enes Unal and Dango Ouattara propelled them to victory over Ipswich, who are four points adrift of the safety zone in 18th place.

Ipswich had the better early chances took the lead in the 21st minute when Conor Chaplin side-footed home.

Bournemouth grew into the game and finally were rewarded in Unal headed home in the 87th minute, and Ouattara grabbed the winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time, breaking the hearts of home fans hoping to wit-

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. "Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required" The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-(BUILDINGS) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT DERA BUGTI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.2000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Construction of 18 Levies Chokri District Dera Bugti Phase-I PSDP No.4385/Z2024.1767 (Package-I) TSE-242512602353	13,206,000
2	Construction of 18 Levies Chokri District Dera Bugti Phase-I PSDP No.4385/Z2024.1767 (Package-II) TSE-242512602343	9,904,000
3	Construction of 18 Levies Chokri District Dera Bugti Phase-I PSDP No.4385/Z2024.1767 (Package-III) TSE-242512602333	9,904,000
4	Construction of 18 Levies Chokri District Dera Bugti Phase-I PSDP No.4385/Z2024.1767 (Package-IV) TSE-242512602313	9,904,000
5	Construction of 18 Levies Chokri District Dera Bugti Phase-I PSDP No.4385/Z2024.1767 (Package-V) TSE-242512602303	16,507,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 9,244,200, 6,932,800, 6,932,800, 6,932,800, & 11,554,900 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm

Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank.

Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, 2,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 24 December, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 24 December, 2024 till 12:00 PM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: Mian Road, Dera Bugti Phone no: 0835410162 Fax no: 0835410562 Email: Mohammadejaz@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-(BUILDINGS) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT DERA BUGTI

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Kurram APC

Few areas in Pakistan have experienced outbreaks of tragic violence as consistently as the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one of the newly merged districts of the province. The latest round of bloody clashes in Kurram has claimed an estimated 133 lives while leaving approximately 177 injured. The most shocking incident to have come out of this conflict has been the November 21 ambush on civilian passenger convoys going from Parachinar, the Kurram district's main town, to Peshawar, leading to almost 50 deaths. At the heart of the conflict in Kurram are land, water, and forest disputes that have exacerbated underlying sectarian divides. While these issues are not new, the dynamics have worsened significantly since the return of the Afghan Taliban to power in 2021, which brought a flood of advanced weaponry into the region. The TTP's presence since 2007-08 has further fanned sectarian flames, complicating efforts to resolve disputes. Local jirgas have repeatedly failed to secure lasting peace, while official mechanisms have been equally ineffective.

This is why Thursday's All-Parties Conference (APC), summoned by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in Peshawar to mull over the security, law and order situation in the province with a particular focus on Kurram, is a welcome step. The APC was attended by more than a dozen political parties, including the Awami National Party (ANP), Jamaat-e-Islami, Qaumi Watan Party, National Democratic Movement, among others. Unfortunately, like the APC on Gaza, the PTI announced it would boycott this important moot. The excuse given this time was that the PPP "has no mandate in KP". It is sad to see that a party that is in power in a volatile province like KP is boycotting an APC on the violence in Kurram. Chief Minister KP Ali Amin Gandapur should have been the one hosting this APC, as his province is reeling under terrorist attacks. The sectarian violence in Kurram escalated and while there is a ceasefire in place now, the situation is still volatile. KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's failure to either convene or attend the conference, or at least send representatives, underscores an alarming disconnect between the PTI leadership and the province's urgent realities. In a province that has borne the brunt of terrorism and sectarian violence, such indifference is unforgivable. Chief Minister Gandapur, who seems more preoccupied with defending party leader Imran Khan and orchestrating political rallies, must shoulder responsibility for Kurram's deteriorating security.

Beyond political posturing, the escalating violence in Kurram demands a comprehensive and integrated strategy. This strategy must address the root causes of land disputes while working to calm sectarian tensions. Law enforcement and security agencies need to root out outlawed groups exploiting local grievances. Strengthening border security to curb the inflow of advanced weapons is equally critical. An APC on Kurram is not just about the PPP or the other dozen parties in the province, it is about everyone who is a citizen of that province. Terrorism and violence should not be held hostage to petty politics. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and indeed the entire nation, cannot afford to allow a region like Kurram to descend further into chaos. Political leadership must transcend party lines to address the grievances of citizens who have endured far too much violence and neglect.

By Nimra Khalid, Dr Syed Mohsin Bukhari

Novel Probiotic Bacterium Lacticaseibacillus casei (NK1) Revealed Promising Potential Against E. coli in poultry

In the poultry industry, one of the biggest threats to both animal health and economic stability is *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), a dangerous bacterium that causes diseases such as colibacillosis in chickens. This infection results in reduced productivity, higher mortality rates, and, ultimately, significant financial losses for farmers. But what if there was a natural solution to help poultry farmers fight these infections, improve growth rates, and reduce the need for costly antibiotics? This is where probiotics, particularly *Lactobacillus* strains, come into play.

Probiotics are naturally occurring microorganisms that provide health benefits when consumed. Known for their ability to promote gut health, *Lactobacillus* species can also suppress harmful bacteria like E. coli, offering a promising solution to the poultry industry's ongoing struggle with bacterial infections. At the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Ravi Campus Pattoki, a pioneering study was conducted by Miss Nimra Khalid under the supervision of Dr. Syed Mohsin Bukhari. The study explored the

potential of probiotics in the poultry industry. The research team isolated *Lacticaseibacillus casei* (NK1), *Lactoplantibacillus plantarum* (NK2), and *Lacticaseibacillus paracasei* (NK3) from both healthy and diseased chickens (sequences available publicly on the NCBI website). They tested these strains for their ability to combat E. coli infections, conducting a series of laboratory tests to evaluate their probiotic properties and antibacterial activity against E. coli. After promising in vitro results, the research team proceeded with an in vivo trial. One-day-old broiler chickens were treated with the *Lactobacillus* strains, and after 35 days of exposure to E. coli, their gut health and growth were monitored. The study also utilized next-generation sequencing to analyze changes in the microbiota of the probiotic-treated chickens compared to the control group.

The results were promising, with *Lacticaseibacillus casei* (NK1) emerging as the best performer. This novel probiotic candidate, which has not been previously reported in the literature, showed significant potential.

It successfully reduced E. coli infections and improved both gut health and growth in broiler chickens. This research provides a natural, sustainable alternative to the overuse of antibiotics in poultry farming, which has contributed to the growing issue of antibiotic resistance. By using probiotics to manage gut health and prevent infections, farmers can reduce their reliance on antibiotics, lower production costs, and enhance poultry health. The benefits for the poultry industry are clear; healthier birds, better growth rates, and improved productivity, while also promoting more sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices.

The promising results from *Lacticaseibacillus casei* (NK1) suggest that further evaluation is necessary to fully understand its potential. Large-scale trials, safety assessments, and long-term studies are needed to make this probiotic fully available for use in the poultry industry.

As the industry faces the growing challenge of antibiotic resistance, probiotics offer a promising solution for healthier chickens, improved productivity, and a more sustainable poultry industry.

By Abdul Sattar

Part – I

The mighty caste system

Industrial growth and economic development greatly transformed Western societies, bringing structural, political and social changes that helped them get rid of old customs and traditions. The Industrial Revolution led to the abolition of feudalism in the European continent while also drastically reducing the powers of the clergy that had dominated the region for more than 1000 years. In the former Soviet Union, it also wiped out feudalism and helped the giant state get rid of archaic customs and traditions.

Such developments also showed miracles in China where old religious beliefs had been dominating the minds of the people for centuries. Feudal bonds were so strong that nobody could imagine challenging them, let alone fighting and eradicating them. The industrial development in the second-largest economy removed all traces of superstitions and primitive cultures. In addition to that, China, like other modern states, also caught up with the modern world by industrialising itself and getting rid of the old system.

But when it comes to India, it seems that old beliefs are still dominating millions of people in the most populous country of the world which has had one of the highest growth rates over the decades. The most obnoxious remnant of this brutal system is the inhuman caste hierarchy that divides human beings into four layers, each being urged to stick to its designated status. According to this system, the upper caste (Brahmin) is supposed to carry out intellectual works and perform religious duties, the Kshatriyas are born to protect, while the Vaishyas are allotted trading, and the Shudras are condemned to do menial jobs. But that's not the end. Even below this complicated hierarchy is the Dalit or Untouchable – tasked to do inhuman jobs.

Like many Western and industrial states, India has also made tremendous strides in different walks of life; it is considered the hub of global vaccines; its information technology seems to be unmatched in the world; its industrial growth has been impressive since the 1990s; over the past few decades, it has produced some of the richest men in the world; and its Bollywood industry and South Indian cinema are dominating the cultural landscape of the world. The country has witnessed massive urbanisation over the last seven decades and has seen the promotion of education,

science and technology.

India has witnessed a phenomenal surge in industrial activities over the decades; in 2022, it had 249,987,000 industrial units. It is a darling of the global capitalist landscape, attracting \$667.4 billion of FDI between 2014 and 2024, registering an increase of 119 per cent over the preceding decade (2004-14). This investment inflow spans 31 states and 57 sectors, driving growth across diverse industries.

New Delhi embraced the doctrine of the free market with great zeal during the decade of the 1980s, opening almost all sectors of the economy for 100 per cent FDI – except certain strategically important sectors. FDI equity inflows into the manufacturing sector over the past decade (2014-24) reached \$165.1 billion, marking a 69 per cent increase compared to the previous decade (2004 -14), which saw inflows of \$97.7 billion.

Nehru's introverted India also spread its tentacles in the region and beyond. The biggest democracy's merchandise exports surpassed \$437 billion in FY 2023-24. The total employment in the manufacturing sector increased from \$57 million in 2017-18 to \$64.4 million in 2022-23.

There are conflicting numbers of universities and colleges in India. A 2016-2017 survey says there are 864 universities, 40026 colleges and 11669 Stand Alone Institutions. Out of them, 15 universities are exclusively for women. Recent estimates claim a very high number. Statista claims that as of July last year, India had 5349 universities, the highest number in the world, with 342000 researchers, over 5.4 million IT professionals and over 334 billionaires. But despite all that, the old social hierarchy is still holding sway. Indian leaders championing the cause of 'Shining India' would categorically reject assertions that caste still dominates the Indian social and political landscape but many critics believe it is still prevalent in large swathes of India. This is evident in the way one speaks or dresses. It is visible in one's skin colour, region and financial income.

There is no reliable data on caste because the last census on it was carried out decades ago. However, Arundhati Roy's book, 'The Doctor and the Saint', published in 2017, deals with the issue in great detail. According to it, "In the 1931 Census, which was the last to include caste as an aspect of the survey, Vaishyas accounted for 2.7 per cent of the population (while the

Untouchables accounted for 12.5 per cent). Given their access to better health care and more secure futures for their children, the figure for Vaishyas is likely to have decreased rather than increased. Either way, their economic clout in the new economy is extraordinary, dominating big businesses, small enterprises, agriculture and industry." It seems caste and capitalism have blended into a disquieting, uniquely Indian alloy. Cronyism is built into the caste system.

One of the factors contributing to their success lies in religious scriptures. It is believed

Vaishyas are only doing their divinely ordained duty. According to Roy, "The Arthashastra (circa 350 BCE) says usury is the Vaishyas' right. The Manusmriti (circa 150 CE) goes further and suggests a sliding scale of interest rates: 2 per cent per month for Brahmins, 3 per cent for Kshatriyas, 4 per cent for Vaishyas and 5 per cent for Shudras. On an annual basis, the Brahmin was to pay 24 per cent interest and the Shudra and Dalit, 60 per cent. No one can be forced into the service of anyone belonging to a 'lower' caste."

This does not diminish the importance of Brahmins. She notes that Brahmins were 6.4 per cent of the population according to the 1931 census and their population's share might have witnessed a downward spiral but their domination is still unshakable. She notes that they were dominant in the 1940s and their influence is still visible. Quoting Dr Ambedkar, she writes, "According to Ambedkar, Brahmins, who were 3 per cent of the population in the Madras Presidency in 1948, held 37 per cent of the gazetted posts and 43 per cent of the non-gazetted posts in government jobs."

Quoting figures from senior Indian journalist Khushwant Singh's article, Roy reveals: "Brahmins form no more than 3.5 per cent of the population of our country, today they hold as much as 70 per cent of government jobs.

I presume the figure refers only to gazetted posts. In the senior echelons of the civil service from the rank of deputy secretaries upward, out of 500 there are 310 Brahmins, ie 63 per cent; of the 26 state chief secretaries, 19 are Brahmins; of the 27 governors and Lt-governors, 13 are Brahmins; of the 16 Supreme Court Judges, 9 are Brahmins; of the 330 judges of high courts, 166 are Brahmins; of 140 ambassadors, 58 are Brahmins; of the total 3,300 IAS officers, 2,376 are Brahmins."

DAILY MIRROR

NA body for stronger vehicle emission standards to combat air quality decline

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change on Monday called for immediate steps to combat air pollution, including the establishment of a vehicle fitness certification system by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner's Office to regulate emissions from over one million vehicles in Islamabad.

The Committee that met here with Shaista Pervaiz in the chair discussed escalating air pollution crisis, focusing on deteriorating air quality and the broader implications for public health and environmental sustainability.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) outlined the major contributors to Islamabad's air pollution, including vehicular emissions, construction dust, industrial emissions, and solid waste burning.

Transboundary pollution from neighboring provinces, particularly stubble burning in Punjab, was highlighted as a key seasonal factor exacerbating the smog problem in the capital.

The briefing revealed that Islamabad's Air Quality Index (AQI) consistently exceeds safe levels, with particulate matter (PM2.5) identified as the primary pollutant.

The committee expressed deep concern over the rising health risks associated with poor air quality, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. It was noted that the AQI in nearby Lahore recently crossed 1,000, alarming both national and global stakeholders.

The committee emphasized the urgent need for a coordinated, multi-departmental approach to mitigate these issues.

It urged expediting improvements in diesel desulfurization processes and enforcing higher fuel quality standards.

To address seasonal smog, the committee emphasized the importance of coordination with the motorway police to prevent stubble and waste burning along highways.

The EPA was directed to finalize hospital waste management rules, ensuring proper regulation of waste incineration facilities. The Committee also reviewed steps taken by the Punjab Environment Protection Department to mitigate air pollution in the province.

It appreciated the department's initiatives, including stricter monitoring of industrial emissions, promoting cleaner brick kiln technologies, and regulating vehicular emissions through enforcement measures.

The Committee emphasized the need for sustained progress and enhanced coordination across regions to address transboundary pollution effectively. The committee also deferred the Bill namely "The Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024" (Moved by Ms. Nuzhat Sadiq, MNA) till next meeting. Pakistan's cuisine

The meeting was also attended by MNAs Tahira Aurangzeb, Aqeel Malik, Shaista Pervaiz, Mussarat Rafique Mahesar, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Syeda Shehla Raza, and Awais Haider Jakhar.



Islamabad : Chargé d'affaires of Afghanistan, Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb called on Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Foreign Office.

PMYP committed to enhancing employment prospects

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan on Monday said that equipping young individuals with both high-tech and conventional skills was essential to meet the evolving demands of the global job market.

He said that the Prime Minister Youth Skill Development Programme (PMYSDP) in collaboration with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) was aimed to ensure that every young Pakistani has the skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive landscape. Pakistan's cuisine

"By focusing on both high-tech and traditional skill development, we aim to enhance employment prospects and foster economic growth."

Mashood said that PMYSDP was committed to providing cutting-edge training programs across various sectors to enhance employment prospects and foster economic growth.

Govt has last chance to initiate dialogue with PTI: Fawad

INP

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said that the government has last chance to initiate dialogue with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Talking to a private TV Channel, he said that the PTI should first focus on forming a larger alliance and added that the government has left the party with no other option but to protest.

He said that PTI has no option left except launching protest movement. He said that the

PTI negotiation committee includes political people and there is every hope that the PTI negotiation committee will move matters forward.

He was of the view that the PTI founder is not in favour of confrontation.

Fawad said that Bushra Bibi, the wife of incarcerated PTI founder, is trying to get her husband's release from the prison.

But the government is not interested in bringing political stability in the country, he concluded.

Ahsan emphasizes engineers' Crucial role in shaping nation's progress

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted on Monday the pivotal role of engineers in shaping the nation's progress, describing them as the backbone of any society.

Addressing the 2nd International Conference on new trends in Civil Engineering at University of Central Punjab (UCP) here on Monday, he highlighted engineers significant contributions to key national projects such as the Mangla Dam, Tarbela Dam, motorways and nuclear programs, said a press release issued here.

The minister while commenting on the growing population of Pakistan said that according to the latest census, the country's population growth rate had increased from 2 percent to 2.55 percent and this put immense pressure on resources, agriculture and food security. Pakistan's cuisine

He pointed out that the demand for infrastructure has also escalated, saying that in 2013, the federal government's budget was 340 billion rupees. By 2018, it had increased to 1,000 billion rupees.

However, now the budget had decreased to just 700 billion rupees.

Despite the economic challenges, he expressed optimism, pointing out that the stock market had reached a milestone of 100,000 points.

Iqbal emphasized that "if the nation works together, conditions can improve quickly".

He further said that in the 21st century, the survival of nations depends on the strength of their economies.

The planning minister acknowledged that Pakistan made significant progress since its independence still there were areas where the nation had to advanced further,

adding that he underscore the need for continued effort and innovation to keep pace with global developments.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of national unity and collective reflection on the country's future direction and goals.

He urged that Pakistan's progress must be rooted in truth, integrity and realistic efforts, warning that relying on false narratives or distractions would hinder the nation's potential.

MNAs Jamal Shah, Jamal Raisani call on Speaker Balochistan Assembly

APP

Quetta: Members of National Assembly (MNAs) Jamal Shah Kakar and Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani met with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khali Khan Achakzai in the Chamber of the Assembly.

Members of the National Assembly Jamal Shah Kakar and Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani attended the meeting. During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the public issues of Balochistan, the current political and social situation. The participants emphasized on the ongoing development projects for the welfare of the people, the challenges facing the province, and joint efforts would be taken to solve them. On this occasion, Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq

Khan Achakzai said that all institutions and representatives need to work together for the development of the province and the prosperity of the people.

He also highlighted the importance of effective legislation and policies to address public problems.

The MNAs including Jamal Shah Kakar and Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani presented their suggestions related to the public interest to the Speaker Balochistan Assembly and assured that they would provide all possible cooperation for the betterment of the province.

The meeting concluded in a positive atmosphere, where all participants agreed to engage in mutual consultation and adopt a common strategy for the development of the province saying that such initiatives are a ray of hope for the people of Balochistan, which would pave the way for collective development.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in a meeting with Member National Assembly Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani.

KP follows zero tolerance policy against corruption: CM Gandapur

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that there is zero tolerance policy against corruption in KP.

In his message on the eve of International Anti-Corruption Day, CM Gandapur said that transparency and accountability are being ensured in every public project in the province.

He added that laws are being enforced to have access to information in the province.

These laws helped a lot to discourage the menace of corruption, said the chief minister. It merits mention here that International Anti-Corruption Day is being observed across the globe on Monday.

The United Nations (UN) decided to mark this day in October 2003, with the aim of raising global awareness about stopping the spread of corruption and bribery.

SC suspends ECP's decision to disqualify MNA Adil Bazai

INP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict that disqualified MNA Adil Bazai over the alleged floor crossing.

A three-member SC bench headed by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah suspended the ECP decision and restored Adil Bazai as MNA till December 12.

It may be noted here that the ECP, on a reference filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif, disqualified the MNA over floor crossing.

Adil Bazai, an independent candidate from Quetta, had initially submitted an affidavit joining the PML-N, only to switch allegiance to the Sunni Ittehad Council a few days later.

During the hearing, the MNA's lawyer claimed that his PML-N membership affidavit was fake. Nawaz Sharif's lawyer argued that Bazai's actions violated the constitution, particularly in the finance bill and constitutional amendment voting.

Contesting as an independent candidate Bazai was declared

winner from NA-262 (Quetta) and later displayed on the National Assembly's website as joining the PML-N.

Anti-corruption watchdog makes historic recovery of over \$13bn in one year: NAB chief

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The top accountability watchdog has set a historic record by recovering Rs3.8 trillion or \$13.57 billion in just one year, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Lieutenant General (ret) Nazir Ahmed said on Monday.

Addressing the special event held in connection with Anti-Corruption Day, the NAB chairman said that the bureau had directly or indirectly recovered Rs6.1 trillion since its establishment.

He commended the outstanding performance of NAB Karachi, Sukkur, and KP. Ahmed said NAB Karachi and Sukkur regions have collectively saved Rs2.4 trillion and Rs1.1 trillion, respectively, by recovering forest land across an area of 1.8 million hectares.

Similarly, KP NAB has achieved indirect and consequential savings of Rs194.9 billion, he said.

In addition to this, the NAB has processed 22,000 applications. Due to reforms,

the filing of false complaints has been discouraged, leading to a reduction in such complaints from 4,000 per month to just 400 per month, the NAB chairman added.

He emphasised that corruption, in any form, is the greatest barrier to sustainable development and economic prosperity.

The chairman reiterated NAB's commitment to fighting corruption, safeguarding national assets, recovering embezzled funds, and returning them to the public.

The event was attended by NAB Deputy Chairman Sohail Nasir, the UNODC Representative in Pakistan, and a large number of senior NAB officers.

He further said that 65% of the country's population is under the age of 30, and the youth represent the future.

"To achieve this, a public awareness programme will be launched with the support of educational and research institutions, along with various stakeholders."

The NAB is not only dedicated to combatting corruption but has also shown exceptional performance in safeguarding national assets, recovering stolen funds, and returning them to the public, he added.

Addressing the event, the NAB chairman urged officers to work with utmost dedication and enthusiasm to swiftly provide relief to victims in the real estate sector.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with Parliament Secretary Barkat Ali Rind.

Ji announces million march towards Islamabad on December 29

INP

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced a million march in Islamabad on December 29 to protest against the economic and political conditions in Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, expressed concerns over the dire state of the nation's economy and the political situation.

Rehman compared Pakistan's situation to that of Syria, highlighting how the Syrian government, under Bashar al-Assad, suppressed the people and denied them their rights.

He pointed out that in Pakistan, a few influential individuals control the country's resources, leading to economic inequality.

He criticized the current rise in the stock market, labeling it as a "fake rally," with big players manipulating the mar-

ket by directing investments into the stock exchange and benefiting from the reduction in interest rates. He emphasized that this practice has been seen before, contributing to a distortion of the economy. He also raised concerns about the dire situation in Sindh, particularly Karachi, where he claimed that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has been ruling for 17 years but has failed to deliver basic services. He cited the ongoing water crisis in Karachi, which has seen no water supply for 11 days, and alleged that PPP's rule has led to the occupation of people's lands. Rehman argued that those who benefit from the PPP's policies continue to support the party, despite widespread discontent among the people of Sindh. Regarding Pakistan's economic situation, Rehman stressed that real improvements could only be achieved by addressing the core issues of taxation, resource distribution, and providing relief to the public.

Chinese company to set up plant in Punjab to manufacture robotic agricultural tools

INP

BEIJING: A Chinese company has agreed to set up robotic agricultural equipment manufacturing plants in Punjab.

An agreement was signed between the Chinese company AI Force Tech and the Punjab government during Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's visit to China.

She had a meeting with the founder and CEO of the AI Force Tech Dr Han and briefed him on agricultural reforms her government planned to implement in Punjab. She assured the Chinese company of cooperation for setting up robotic agricultural machinery manufacturing plant in Punjab.

Earlier, Chief Minister Maryam inspected the latest agricultural tools and expressed her determination to introduce them in Punjab to revolutionise agriculture sector.

A delegation from AI Force Tech will soon visit Punjab at the invitation of Chief Minister Maryam.

Earlier, on Sunday, Maryam Nawaz held a meeting with a high-level delegation of the Communist Party of China in Beijing.

On this occasion, she expressed her desire to make Punjab economically sound in collaboration with China.

At the Beijing Airport, she was welcomed by six senior representatives of the Communist Party of China.

She is the first Pakistani woman chief minister to visit China.

Senator Pervez Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari, Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar, Minister for Agriculture Ashiq Hussain Kirmani are part of the delegation.

During her trip, she will visit Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong. The visit will focus on exploring cooperation in the fields of Information Technology (IT), healthcare, and industry.

Maryam Nawaz will also meet prominent Chinese leaders and key government officials during her visit.